

Message Text

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R 110046Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: ITALIAN DEMARCHE ON IFAD

REF: ROME 3544

1. USG HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT AND ATTENTION TO MATTERS RAISED IN GOI'S JANUARY 24 AIDE MEMOIRE. DURING FEBRUARY WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY HERE IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS TO A NUMBER OF IFAD MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED FEBRUARY WORKING GROUP MEETING. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT SPECIFIC PROCEDURAL ISSUES ITALY HAS RAISED MUST BE FACED IN OVERALL CONTEXT OF PROBLEMS ATTENDANT WITH BRINGING IFAD INTO REALITY. INCLUDED IN THIS IS A BALANCED AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF THE PRESIDENCY, VICE PRESIDENCY AND SITE AMONG THE TWO DONOR GROUPS.

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2. IN AND OF ITSELF, WE WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE IRANIAN RECISION OF PREPCOM INVITATION AS SIGN OF LESSENERED INTEREST IN THE PERMANENT SITE. HOWEVER, WE ARE GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT CONSIDERATION ON PERMANENT SITE MAY BE DEFERRED UNTIL REPLENISHMENT AND CONTINUITY OF FUND IS ASSURED. SUCH DEFERRAL WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE

POSITION THE USG HAS LONG TAKEN, AND WOULD BE, WE BELIEVE,

IN ITALY'S LONG-TERM INTEREST. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE SUPPORT TO GAIN A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR ROME AT THIS TIME. NEITHER, IN THE INTEREST OF THE FUND, ARE WE ANXIOUS FOR A CONTEST IN WHICH AT LEAST ONE MEMBER MUST BE OFFENDED. WE DO FEEL THAT A GOVERNING COUNCIL DECISION TO DELAY A VOTE UNTIL REPLENISHMENT WOULD NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO ITALY AND WOULD ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH ROME SERVED AS THE PROVISIONAL SITE. (FYI. WE SHORTLY WILL BE TRANSMITTING A GENERAL MESSAGE TO OECD AND OPEC COUNTRIES SPELLING OUT IDEAS THE U.S. HAS FOR FOSTERING EARLY RESOLUTION OF ISSUES OUTSTANDING BEFORE RATIFICATION. END FYI)

2. IN REPLYING TO AIDE MEMOIRE, EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE SPECIFICALLY TO ITALIANS THAT:

-- U.S. HAS BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO HOW TO BRING IFAD SWIFTLY INTO EXISTENCE. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THESE QUESTIONS AT THE MARCH 17 CONSULTATION AGREED UPON IN JANUARY AT THE CATEGORY I ROME IFAD GROUP MEETING.

-- OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO US HAS BEEN ATTAINING A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE RELATED QUESTIONS OF SITE AND PRESIDENCY. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY URGED THAT A DECISION ON IFAD'S PERMANENT SITE SHOULD NOT BE MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNTIL THE FUND HAS PROVEN ITS VIABILITY BY EFFECTING A SUCCESSFUL REPLENISHMENT. WE ARE GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A CONSENSUS IS FORMING ALONG THESE LINES AND BELIEVE SUCH A MOVE WOULD NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO ITALY'S LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE. A PROTRACTED DEBATE ON RULE 35 WILL JEOPARDIZE THIS HOPE.

-- IF OTHERS CHOOSE TO REOPEN RULE 35, AND WE ARE MOST HOPEFUL THE PREPCOM AND GOVERNING COUNCIL WILL DECIDE NOT TO, WE WOULD PREFER A MORE DIRECT APPROACH THAN THE ITALIAN PROPOSAL, SUCH AS MODIFYING RULE 35 TO SPECIFY A SECRET VOTE FOR THE SITE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IFAD'S RULES SHOULD ENCOURAGE VOTING, AND ESPECIALLY SECRET VOTING. IF THE FUND IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, ITS DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE, IN THE MAIN, BY CONSENSUS.
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